

# POLS& 203 – International Relations

Item# 5367 Fall 2017

Instructor: Christina Sciabarra

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Office Hours: Fridays from 8-10 or by appointment

Class Times and Location: Daily from 12:30-1:20 D-259

**Course Structure:** In class lectures, discussion, and activities with required reading and out of class research. All readings, assignment guides, and other information will be posted on the **Canvas site** for the class. This site will be active so please be sure to check it frequently.

**Course Description:** Examines the struggle for power and peace and the methods by which affairs are conducted between modern nations.

## Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Apply core concepts in international relations, such as power, anarchy, conflict, cooperation, globalization, interdependence, and sustainability
- Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of major international relations perspectives such as Liberalism and Realism as well as secondary perspectives such as Constructivism, Feminism, and Marxism
- Differentiate major global actors, including states, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, multinational corporations, individuals, and transnational advocacy networks
- Express informed opinions about issues of global importance, such as global warming, interstate and intrastate conflict, global inequality, and international human rights
- Articulate the paradox and dilemma of global citizenship and demonstrate basic competencies in the realm of advocacy

## Grade Requirements:

Participation and Attendance	50 days x 1 pt	50 points
Facebook post	10 x 5 points	50 points
Simulation		50 points
Weekly Projects	10 x 30 points →	300 points
Book Review		100 points
Final Project		200 points
	Total:	<b>750 points</b>

## Course Assignments:

**Attendance and Participation** - This course is designed to be an experiential learning course meaning we will be using class time to actively learn the material. Attendance and participation are an important part of learning the material and building important skills. Activities include: short writing assignments, short group presentations, group discussions, video recordings, simulations, debates. Students are permitted to miss class without penalty for approved activities including school trips, religious holidays, and extended illness.

**Weekly Projects** – Each week you will work in class to complete a short project/problem related to the material for the week. Students will work in groups and should be able to complete the project during class time with the expectation of presenting their findings each Friday in class.

**Facebook Post** – Everyone will join the Facebook group “Exploring International Relations and share a news story each week. The group is closed but includes students from the online class as well.

**Book Review** – Students will select one of the following assignments to complete the review and assessment of a book related to international relations. Each assignment includes a written component and a class presentation/discussion. Students can find specific details and rubrics on Canvas.

**Final Project** – Students will select a final project to participate in and complete. The details will be made available during the first week of class, but students will work on a long-term project that will allow them to build real world skills while using the course material. Students will either join the World Justice Project Task Force or participate in the online dialogue program, Soliya. Separate information will be made available on Canvas.

**Required Text:**

Mingst, Karen A. and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft. 2017. *Essentials of International Relations*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.

Additional readings will be assigned and made available on the Canvas course site.

**Course Rules:**

1. **Attendance** – **students are expected to attend all classes.** I will take attendance on a daily basis and you will receive points for attending and participating in the in-class activities.

2. **Cell phones and computers are not permitted during class** other than during designated times, unless you have accommodations from the DRC. Students will lose attendance points each time a cell phone appears.

3. I reserve the right to assign additional readings that are not initially listed in the syllabus.

4. **Late assignments** are not accepted unless discussed with the instructor AHEAD OF TIME.

5. Students will participate in group work and discussions. There will be class discussions, projects, and peer reviews which will take place in smaller groups. Students are expected to participate in group activities, contribute to group production, and maintain a civil and open learning environment. **\*\*Offensive** language, comments or actions will not be tolerated and will result in dismissal from the class and possible disciplinary action. We will design class discussion rules as a group during the first week of class.

6. We will be discussing violence in its various forms which will include sensitive topics. Please contact me if you are concerned about any of the topics covered in the class.

7. **Affirmation of Inclusion** - Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

8. The **Disability Resource Center** serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact [asn@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:asn@bellevuecollege.edu) or 425.564.2764. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125. Autism Spectrum Navigators (Links to an external site.)

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at Disability Resource Center (Links to an external site.)

9. **Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity** - Cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the

Dean of Student Success for investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct at [http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050\\_Student\\_Code.asp](http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp)

**10. Public Safety and Emergencies** - Public Safety is located in the K building and can be reached at **425-564-2400** (easy to remember because it's the only office on campus open 24 hours a day—2400). Among other things, Public Safety serves as our Parking Permits, Lost and Found, and Emergency Notification center. Please ensure you are signed up to receive alerts through our campus alerting system by registering at <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/alerts/?ref=footer>. If you work late and are uneasy about going to your car, Public Safety will escort you to your vehicle. To coordinate this, please phone ahead and let Public Safety know when and where you will need an escort. Please familiarize yourself with the emergency postings by the door of every classroom and know where to go in the event of an evacuation. Your instructor will be asked if anyone might still be in the building, so check in before you do anything else. Emergency responders will search for anyone unaccounted for. **If a major emergency occurs, please follow these two rules: 1) Take directions from those in charge of the response** -We all need to be working together. **2) Do not get in your car and leave campus (unless directed to)** - Doing so will clog streets and prevent emergency vehicles from entering the scene. Instead, follow directions from those in charge. Please do not hesitate to call Public Safety if you feel safety questions or concerns at any time.

**11. Academic Calendar** - The Bellevue College Academic Calendar is separated into two calendars. They provide information about holidays, closures and important enrollment dates such as the finals schedule.

- Enrollment Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/deadlines/>. On this calendar you will find admissions and registration dates and important dates for withdrawing and receiving tuition refunds.
- College Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/holidays/0910.asp>. This calendar gives you the year at a glance and includes college holidays, scheduled closures, quarter end and start dates, and final exam dates.

## **Class Schedule and Assignments**

(Check Canvas daily for updates and announcements)

### **Week 1 – Introduction (Sep 18-24)**

*Topics to be covered:* approaches to IR, historical context and foundations of IR, tools for analyzing events in international relations

*Readings:* Ch. 1 & 2

### **Week 2 – International System (Sep 25 – Oct 1)**

*Topics to be covered:* thinking theoretically, levels of analysis, theoretical paradigms, game theory

*Readings:* Ch. 3 & 4

### **Week 3 – Actors in the System: State, Individuals, and Non-State Actors (Oct 2-8)**

*Topics to be covered:* state structures, power sources, foreign policy, revolution, non-violence, individuals, elites, non-state actors

*Readings:* Ch. 5 & 6

### **Week 4 – Conflict and the International System (Oct 9-15)**

*Topics to be covered:* defining war, causes of interstate conflict, institutions and war, alliances, collective security, commitment problems, credibility, incomplete information, costs of war, bargaining, data sources

*Readings:* Ch. 8

### **Week 5 – Finding and Building Peace (Oct 16-22)**

*Topics to be covered:* domestic politics, democratic peace theory, civil conflict, terrorism, data sources, peacebuilding

**ATTENDANCE REQUIRED – THURSDAY and FRIDAY**

**No Class – Monday, October 16**

*Readings:* readings posted on Canvas

### **Week 6 – Organizations and International Law (Oct 23-29)**

*Topics to be covered:* intergovernmental organizations, international law, non-governmental organizations

*Readings:* Ch. 7

### **Week 7 – International Political Economy (Oct 30 – Nov 5)**

*Topics to be covered:* monetary relations, Breton-Woods, monetary systems, currency, free-trade, liberalization, organizations regulating trade, bilateral trade, regional agreements, borrowing and lending between countries, debt crises, multinational corporations

*Readings:* Ch. 9

### **Week 8 – Development and Globalization (Nov 6-12)**

*Topics to be covered:* foreign aid, approaches to development, globalization, colonialism, industrialization, liberalization, global inequality, women's rights

**No Class – Friday, November 10**

*Readings:* readings posted on Canvas

### **Week 9 – Human Rights and Transnational Advocacy (Nov 13-19)**

*Topics to be covered:* regimes, norms and organizations, human rights law, agreements, rights of women and children, migration

*Readings:* Ch. 10

### **Week 10 – Transnational Politics (Nov 20-26)**

*Topics to be covered:* environmental degradation, climate change, global health, international crime networks, militarized transnational networks

**No Class – November 23-24**

*Readings:* Ch. 11

### **Week 11 – Presentations (Nov 27 – Dec 3)**